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GENERAL NOTES.

A Rose astray.—On a common climbing double red rose in my yard there is a sprout, on which, at about the middle, grows a whorl of four bracts, subtending a cluster of ordinary petals, giving the appearance of a stem growing through the center of a rose. The bracts are oblanceolate and toothed.—E. B. HARGER, *Oxford, Conn.*

Geographical Distribution of Plants.—In *Harper's Magazine*, November, 1871, is an account of a curious character known as Johnny Appleseed, who devoted his life, commencing before 1801, to planting apple seeds in favorable locations in advance of settlement, and thus securing a wide distribution of apple trees for the coming settler. In this article is mention of the distribution by the same party of seeds of dog fennel or May-weed, under a belief in its antimalarial virtues. This circumstance is illustration how the acts of a single "crank" can serve as a factor in the geographical distribution of plants.

The ox-eye daisy, now so fashionable a flower, is said to be springing up on the lines of our Western railroads, the flowers carried by the ladies from the East until wilted, and then thrown from the car window, furnishing the seed supply for the distribution.

In Northern Maine this same ox eye daisy has secured strong foothold, introduced through the former purchase of bale hay from other localities, for the feeding of logging teams in the woods in winter, at times when the local crop was short.—E. LEWIS STURTEVANT, *Geneva, N.Y.*

Dionæa muscipula.—I am much puzzled by a plant which I have been carefully nursing for some months past, and appeal to the BOTANICAL GAZETTE for light on the subject. Last April a friend brought to me, from the vicinity of Wilmington, N. C., a *Dionæa muscipula*, the first and only one I have ever seen, consisting of a small bunch of rounded leaves, and a number of winged, foliaceous petioles, bearing the peculiar trap appendages at the summit. I had the plant set out in a damp, shady nook of the garden, and have carefully tended and watched it with interest ever since. At first it seemed to thrive; several new traps gradually developed, the mature ones remained green and healthy-looking, one of which entrapped an insect, and after a fortnight or so, two flower stalks, as I supposed, shot up from the center of the plant, and I had strong hopes of seeing my cherished *Dionæa* in bloom. But they soon withered away, and one by one the traps died also, leaving no trace save in the cluster of cordate, dentate leaves, which flourished vigorously, and have continued to increase, sending out runners, which have taken root all round the parent plant, until now the group of independent bunches (except for the creeping, recumbent stem, which seems to link them all together) numbers about twenty-five.

The only description (technical) of *Dionæa muscipula* which I have seen is by Darby (from Ellis), which begins: "Without stem. Leaves spreading. Petioles winged, foliaceous," etc., etc. Whereas my plant has creeping stems in abundance, bearing, at intervals of two to three inches, a pair of opposite leaves, from which invariably descend rootlets, while the axils are nuclei of

new plants, and leaves having petioles of two inches in length when fully grown. I have come to the conclusion that I have been hoodwinked, and that very unusual prey has this time been a victim of Venus's Fly-trap! Is it not possible that the *Dionæa* grew in close and intimate connection with the roots and stems of some companion, and that it is the foster plant which flourishes, while the Fly-trap perished?—ELIZABETH L. H. WILLIS, *Charleston, S. C.*

EDITORIAL NOTES.

DR. J. G. BAKER has described, in the *Journal of Botany*, six new species of ferns from Costa Rica, collected by Mr. P. G. Harrison. They are equally divided among *Asplenium*, *Nephrodium*, and *Polypodium*.

CHINA seems to be yielding much new material to the authorities at Kew. It is somewhat of a pity that the native plants of China have felt for so long a time the pressure of man's presence before they could be studied. It will be hard to eliminate the human factor and get a true view of the indigenous flora, although Chinese customs would prevent much inroad of foreign plants. In the December *Journal of Botany* Dr. Hance describes two new epiphytic orchids, and four *Cesalpinieæ*. Among the latter a new *Gymnocladus* is especially notable. A few years ago our North American *G. Canadensis*, L., was the only representative of the genus; then *G. Chinensis*, Baill., a Chinese species, was discovered; and now a second Chinese species, *G. Williamsi*, Hance, is described, and curiously enough it is much more nearly related to the American form than to *G. Chinensis*. A new *Gleditschia* is also one of the four.

REV. B. SCORTECHINI has described a new genus of Rubiaceous trees from the Malayan Peninsula. It is called *Creaghia*, and belongs to the tribe *Cinchonææ*. This type species is about 40 feet high, and bears the name of *C. fagraeopsis*.

IN THE DECEMBER number of the *American Monthly Microscopical Journal* the editor makes a complaint that Mr. J. Kruttschnitt's work on fertilization of the ovule has not attracted the attention it deserves. It is rather sweeping, to say the least, to observe that botanists have ignored it without giving it the slightest attention, as though they had some small spite against Mr. Kruttschnitt. Valuable work is appreciated by every botanist, and none are more eager to hail any discovery that will break up some encrusted theory. In fact, we rather incline to startling deductions too eagerly. But when a man undertakes to prove that the descent of the pollen tube to the ovule is a myth he contradicts, not our text-books, for in modern botany these are not depended on, but the every day experience of our laboratories. The demonstration of pollen tubes in the ovary cavity, and in the micropyle itself, is so comparatively easy that no class has advanced very far into laboratory work without successfully accomplishing it. It is almost like a man denying that hydrogen and oxygen do not exist in water. What chemist would stop to notice a theory based upon that supposition? What botanist has time to devote to one who stands upon such a plane that no starting point can be found short of the elements of botany?